

KWIB NEWS

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Workforce Innovation 2002 Conference Highlights

At the Workforce Innovation Conference held in Nashville in July, U.S. Department of Labor officials outlined the principles that will guide them as they work on reauthorization



Elaine Chao
Secretary, U.S.
Labor Department

of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Both US Department of Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and Assistant Secretary Emily DeRocco articulated principles that are very consistent with those submitted by

the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board in its recent Reauthorization White Paper.

In the keynote address, **Secretary Chao** unveiled four guidelines for WIA reauthorization:

- 1) Simplify cumbersome governance structure -- empower system to be an engine of economic development;

- 2) Develop more business engagement -- build stronger relationships with employers in one-stops;
- 3) Encourage more collaborative programs with community colleges; and
- 4) Improve measurement -- use system-wide performance measures that are concise, results-oriented, easy to understand and administer.

Assistant Secretary DeRocco also told the Workforce Innovation 2002 Conference attendees that there are three broad principles guiding reauthorization for the Workforce Investment Act:

- 1) The Workforce Investment System is a first chance



Emily DeRocco
Assistant Secretary
for Employment
and Training

(Continued on page 3)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

For Your Information -- updates on ongoing projects	2
Roundtable Held in Western Kentucky	2
KWIB Web Site Launched	3
Statewide Conference -- Mark Your Calendars	4

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2002

10 A.M.- 2 P.M.

LOCAL CHAIRS FORUM

KENTUCKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT

OCTOBER 16, 2002

10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE-- EKCEP

JENNY WILEY STATE PARK

NOVEMBER 6 & 7, 2002

YOUTH SUMMIT

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE TRAINING AND CONFERENCE CENTER

NOVEMBER 13 & 14, 2002

KWIB QUARTERLY MEETING & STATE CONFERENCE

HOLIDAY INN AIRPORT SOUTH--FERN VALLEY ROAD, LOUISVILLE

NOVEMBER 20, 2002
WIA AWARDS CEREMONY AND BANQUET
11:30 A.M. -- 2:30 P.M.
HOLIDAY INN--CAPITAL PLAZA, FRANKFORT

August KWIB Meeting Cancelled

The Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) meeting scheduled for August 8 was cancelled due to the death of Kenny Rapier, father of KWIB member Nicky Rapier.

Kenny Rapier was a former

legislator, an advisor to Governor Patton and Commissioner of the Department of Parks in the Tourism Development Cabinet.

Funeral services were held Thursday, August 8 in Bardstown.

For Your Information

Labor Market Information Survey

The results of the labor market surveys conducted for the Cabinet for Workforce Development are scheduled for a November release. The final report from the UK/UofL research team will be presented to the board at the November 13 meeting.

The researchers will also be conducting workshops at the statewide conference November 14. The workshops will focus on the survey results and give participants a hands-on demonstration of the Web site developed by the research team.

The survey project has been delayed several times from the original schedule. Much of the project depends on data that the Census Bureau had delayed releasing for five months. This census data was released on August 20 and the project is now moving ahead.

Accessibility Workgroup

The WIA Advisory Committee's Accessibility Task Group is overseeing a project to make the One-Stops more accessible to persons with disabilities, older workers and limited English-speaking individuals. A list of recommended accessibility hardware and software was compiled and equipment has been ordered that will provide each comprehensive One-Stop with at least one accessible work station in its resource room.

Personnel from throughout the state have completed sensitivity training, in a train-the-trainer format. These trainers will now ensure that staff in each of the One-Stops will receive the training, called *Widening Our Doors*, in the coming months.

Roundtable Held in Western Kentucky

The Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB), through the Local Liaison Committee, held the third in a series of roundtables at Kentucky Dam Village State Park on June 19. Businesses and public agency representatives from the Purchase-



Jim Greer, chair of the Purchase-Pennyriple Workforce Investment Board, welcomes participants.

Pennyriple and Green River Local Workforce Investment Areas were invited to attend. Governor Martha Layne Collins, chair of the KWIB Local Liaison Committee and Ken Oilschlager, KIWB Chair, facilitated the small group discussions that focused on the workforce issues confronting area businesses.

The comments from employers attending the roundtable sounded familiar to the facilitators. "We hear similar things from employers all over the

state," noted Oilschlager. "Business leaders are concerned about the lack of basic skills and a

good work ethic among workers."

Other concerns facing employers include difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified workers and the lack of communication among education, workforce and business communities.

KWIB staff and the Cabinet for Workforce Development are working toward solutions to the issues raised by business leaders. A Workforce Tool Kit has been developed to provide employers with a guide to publicly funded resources and the cabinet is launching a pilot program in three areas of the state to find better ways to serve small- to medium-sized businesses.



Workforce Innovation 2002 Highlights (continued from page 1)

system – an economic development tool;

- 2) One-Stops are true single points of access to full services, with better connections to faith- and community-based organizations and community colleges; and
- 3) Focus is on career advancement goals (career pathways), not just getting one job. Youth program strategies must complement vocational education, and focus on strong high school foundations and credentials.

Additionally, DeRocco called for more flexibility in funding streams along with strong accountability.

In the opening plenary session, **Alan Webber, co-founder of *Fast Company* magazine**, articulated four profound forces that he feels are shaping our economy:

- 1) Technology – 60-80% of white-collar jobs over the next decade will be redefined, reconfigured or eliminated;
- 2) Globalization – particularly in software development and the services industry (call centers, for example);
- 3) Generational power shift; and

- 4) Gender shift – particularly relevant because of women's capacity for collaboration and teamwork.

Weber also stated that organizational or business success is “all about the people – getting the right people on the bus, the right people off the bus and the right people in the right seats on the bus....The team with the best people wins....It's all about the talent.” He also discussed the importance of “serious innovation” – implementing great ideas that come from listening to our customers. Weber concluded by saying that it's all about adding value – in order to be successful the One-Stop system must add value for the business community. They must help to solve problems and they must deliver on their promises.



Alan Weber,
Founder of *Fast Company*

(Editor's note: The full text of the speeches mentioned in this article can be accessed at www.wi2002.org)

KWIB Web Site Launched

The Web site for the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board has been officially launched at www.kentuckywib.org.

This Web site is provided as a resource for the members of the KWIB and Kentucky's 10 Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs), as well as partner agency policy makers and practitioners. It will focus on policy issues and best practices with links to important state and national organizations such as the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Center for Workforce Preparation.

Among the numerous resources available, visitors will find the speech recently made by U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Elaine Chao at the Workforce Innovations Conference in Nashville, and a thought-provoking policy paper, *The*

Competitive Challenge: Building a World-Class Workforce, recently released by the National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs.

Although the Web site will provide visitors with basic information about the board and its purpose, the site is intended to go well beyond that to provide the latest in thought-provoking workforce development policy papers, speeches and Web site links. As the leading policy board for the Commonwealth's workforce development system, one of the KWIB's major roles is to communicate a strategic vision for developing a world-class workforce in Kentucky. This Web site will hopefully challenge current thinking and present ideas that will help turn policy into practice as the workforce investment boards work to build a capable, trained workforce in each Kentucky community.



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The Kentucky Workforce Investment Board is administratively attached to the Kentucky Cabinet for Workforce Development. The Cabinet for Workforce Development, which promulgates policy and manages agencies within the cabinet, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion or marital status in training, activities or employment practices in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

2002 Employer Seminars

*presented by the
Kentucky Department for
Employment Services*

Seminar topics include:

- Tax credits
- Job screening/referral
- Unemployment insurance
- Internet wage filing
- Virtual interviewing
- Employer chargeability
- Labor market information
- UI appeals process
-and more

For your convenience, these one-day seminars will be held at 11 locations statewide.

For registration information
contact:

Kristen Swatzyna

Employer Seminar Coordinator

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Ph: 502-564-2900

Fax: 502-564-5502

Visit our Web site at www.kentuckywib.org

Beyond "Bored" Meetings

Next Steps for Kentucky's Workforce Investment Boards

A conference for state and local workforce investment board members.

Tired of meetings about operations and program management?
Ready to take on the real workforce issues in your community?
Then mark your calendar!

November 14, 2002

**Holiday Inn Airport South—Fern Valley Road
Louisville, Kentucky**

Sessions will include:

- Taking your Board to the Next Level
- Better Business Services
- Using Labor Market Information
- Moving from Management to Leadership

Leave with action strategies you can apply in your community.

Registration information will be mailed to workforce board members in September.